

Upper Eastern Shore Tributary Team

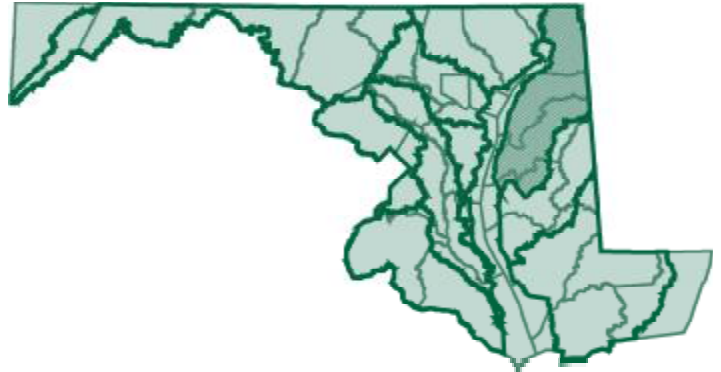
June 21, 2005

About the Watershed:

The Upper Eastern Shore Watershed extends from Charlestown in Cecil County down to Saint Michaels in Talbot County. It is a long watershed that encompasses 960 square miles and includes six major rivers – the North East, Elk, Sassafras, Chester, Corsica, Wye, and Miles Rivers. These rivers travel deep into the Upper Eastern Shore landscape; thus, many of the team's members have close associations with their local river and the Chesapeake Bay. Predominant land uses in the watershed are agriculture and forestry. Significant land use changes, however, are occurring. As a result, the team is involved in a number of initiatives that pertain to growth and reducing the impacts of development in the watershed.

About the Team:

The mission of the Upper Eastern Shore Tributary Team is to reduce nutrient and sediment inputs and to restore habitat in the Upper Eastern Shore Watershed through community participation. The team is a highly motivated group of volunteers who consistently seek to develop partnerships in the watershed to protect and restore their beloved Eastern Shore landscape. The team is composed of a wide range of representatives from the four counties (Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot) that make up the watershed. These members represent



varying interests, including watershed organizations, farmers, businesses, developers, educators, artists, and federal, state, and local governments. The team undertakes a variety of initiatives to achieve its Tributary Strategy goals, including seeking policy and legislative changes, conducting public outreach and education initiatives, engaging elected officials in team initiatives, and implementing restoration projects.

Team Accomplishments:

- In 2002, the team created a Living Shorelines Workgroup to address the loss of shoreline habitat to hardened shoreline protection practices. The team recommended legislative and permitting changes to the Governor and state agency secretaries and team members assisted with a shoreline restoration project at the Horsehead Wetlands Center. The team partnered with the Washington College Center for the Environment and Society and the Chester River Association to hold a public forum on Living Shorelines that more than 200 people attended.
- During the spring of 2004, the team sponsored a highly successful Groundwater Well and Septics forum in Chestertown. The program was attended by over 130 people, and included speakers from the Kent county Health Department, the University of Maryland's Cooperative Extension Service, the Chester River association, and UES Team members.
- In the Fall of 2004, the team hosted a "Delegates' Night" during which several team members presented the top five legislative issues of concern to representatives of the Maryland General Assembly.



The 2002 Upper Eastern Shore Wade-In included a T-shirt design contest/giveaway and a terrapin turtle release

Cooperative efforts resulted in several bills being introduced into the 2005 Legislative Session.

- During 2004 and '05, team members have worked closely with both Kent and Queen Anne's county Health Departments to encourage the recommendation and use of denitrifying septic systems for new construction in the Critical Area.
- During the spring of 2005, the team sponsored an Agricultural tour in Kent County. 28 team members, elected officials and interested participants visited an organic hay and grain operation, as well as an organic dairy farm. The tour theme, "Is Nutrient Management and Farm Profitability Compatible"? is the first of a series of Land Use Tours planned for the predominantly agricultural Upper Eastern Shore basin.
- On June 4, 2005, the Upper Eastern Shore Tributary Team held its biggest and best wade-in ever at the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center. Through the generosity of a variety of sponsors, the team gave away free Wade In T-shirts to the more than 220 participants. The day included live music, a raptor show, local artists and carvers who displayed their work, and exhibitors who educated attendees about the Bay and their watershed.

For More Information:

For more information, contact Mike Bilek, team coordinator, at 410-260-8988. You can also visit our website at www.dnr.state.md.us/bay/tribstrat/.



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Team Members

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Teri Batchelor, MD Forest Service
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John Earl Hutchison, Talbot Farm Bureau
Jerry Land, Citizen
Martin Kaehny, Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge
Carol Jelich, Queen Anne Master Gardener
Susan Mayberry, Citizen
Pat McClary, Gunther & McClary Real Estate
Craig McSparran, MD Cooperative Extension, Kent Co.
Tom Miller, Wye Research and Ed. Center
Bruce Mertz, Future Harvest CASA
Nancy Metcalf, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Richard V. Norton, Kent County Forestry Board
Gail Owings, Kent Planning & Zoning
Alan Quimby, Queen Anne's Dept. of Public Works
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Mike Whitehill, McCrone, Inc.
Judy Wink, Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center

Team Participants

Dr. Wayne Bell, Washington College Center for the Environment and Society
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John and Ellyn Vail, Sassafras River Association

Team Coordinator

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